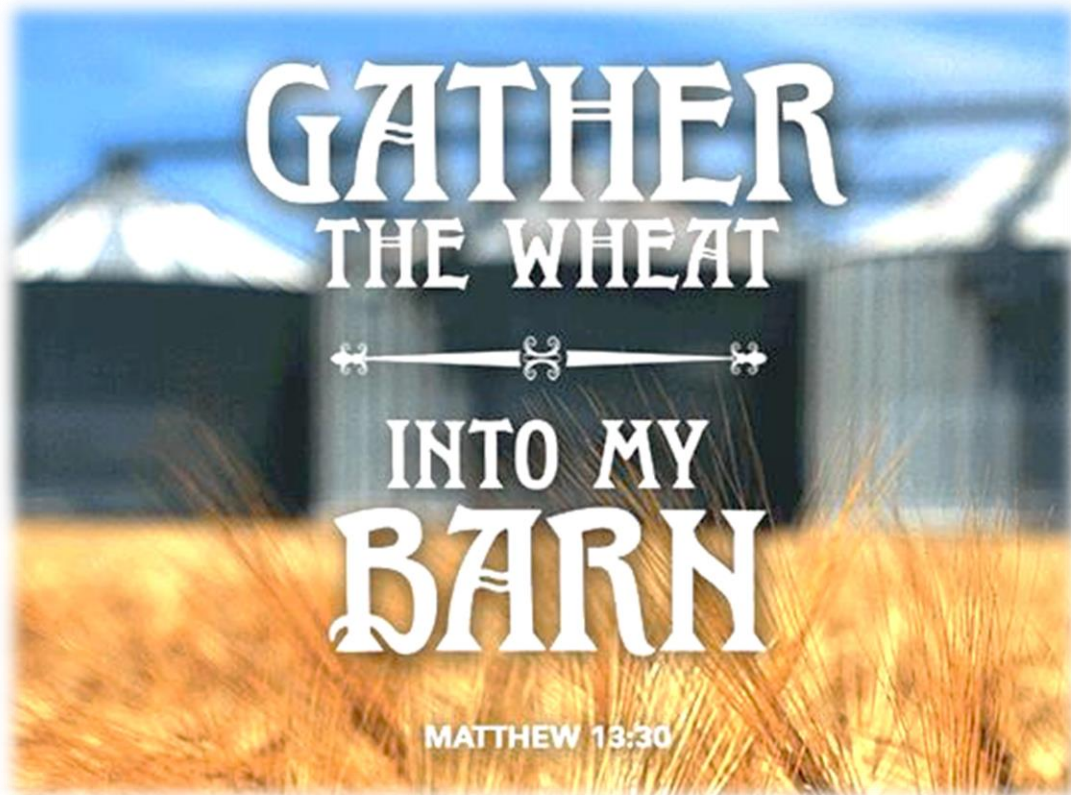




**SERVICE OF THE WORD – SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JULY 18 & 19, 2020**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we often ignore your presence in our lives.  
We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We misuse your good creation for our own  
benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others, even though you have welcomed us.**

**We continue to sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you with renewed faith and righteous lives.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, in God's unlimited mercy, we are given peace through our Lord † Jesus Christ.

Through him we have obtained grace upon grace and our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love  
has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

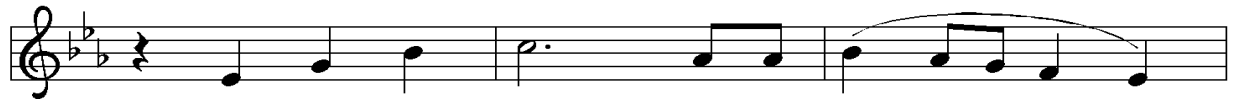
APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Glory to God"



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



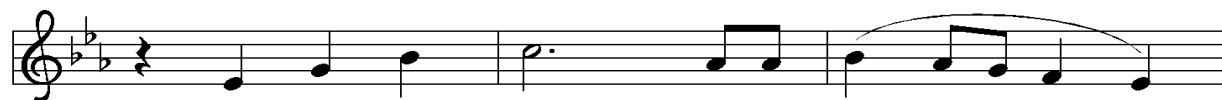
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, from the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Loves Me!”

ELW 595

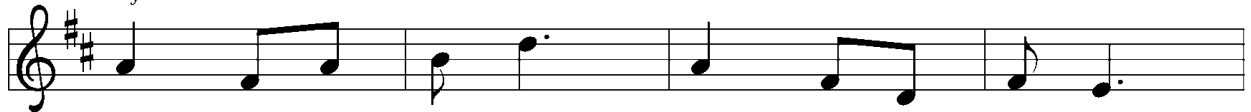


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

*Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.



## APOSTLES' CREED

We now profess the faith we share, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✠ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be, above all else, faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of every land and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom anew through the restoration only your grace can provide. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way. Draw near to those who are ill, especially Yvonne, Steve, Henri, John, Bea, Art, Jill, Kathy, Eric, Doug, Mike, Mary, Jennifer, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Ed, Earl, Barbara, and Steven. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment in ways that do not endanger ourselves and others. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, you call forth children to unite with one another in the bonds of marriage. We give you thanks for those who have found new depths of love and commitment through this gift you have given to us. We praise you for the new marriage of Ashly Cartner and Timothy Bolus. May their life together be a partnership that serves your Kingdom, and may we support them in the vows they have made.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### LITANY OF PEACE

We rejoice that our Lord Jesus Christ has begun his reign across the created order and remember that he extends his peace to every one of us. In this time when we must preserve a physical distance, we give thanks that the peace of Christ abides without boundary or limitation. We announce his peace, therefore, in this house of prayer, in our homes, among one another, and to every corner of creation. We serve as carriers of his peace set loose on the world, proclaiming that the Peace of Christ has triumphed, even where strife remains.

To lands and people ravaged by warfare, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To systems built on injustice and inequality, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To our nation, struggling with viruses too many to name, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To families torn apart by discord, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To friends separated by disagreement, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To servants of God who suffer for righteousness, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

To those in need, whose help and hope is but Grace alone, Jesus will be made known: **Peace be with you.**

And today, here, and now, the Peace of Christ is with you. **And also with you. Amen.**

#### OFFERING

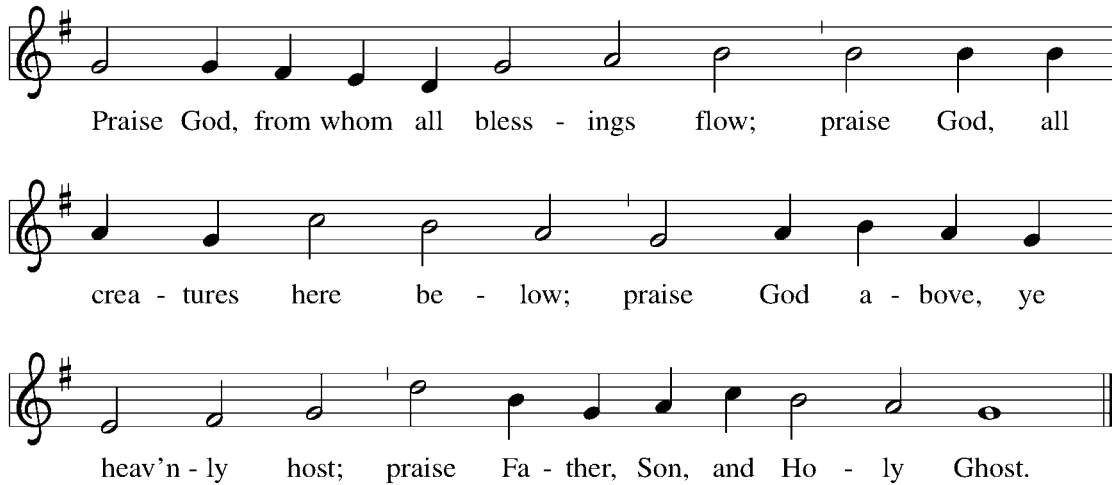
<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

arr. Chris Tomlin  
Virtual Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*) "Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together. Merciful God,

**our gifts seem small, but we know you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our entire lives.**

**We long to be fed at your table once more, but in this time of distance, draw near to your children, and let us feast on the Gospel hope you freely share with the world. Accept the offering we bring and strengthen us for service in your name, for the sake of the risen Christ. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

United as one church, deployed across a great distance, we unite our voices and join in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Almighty God - Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you this day, and unto eternal life.

**Amen.**



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

[www.gracerockhill.com](http://www.gracerockhill.com)

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